



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Almanor Basin Fuel Break		
PROJECT LOCATION	Directly north of Hamilton Branch, California and along the north side of County Highway A13.	COUNTY	Plumas
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will involve the maintenance of a section of an existing fuel break/Defensible Fuel Profile Zone (DFPZ) that encircles the entire Lake Almanor Basin. To maintain the effectiveness of this section of DFPZ adjacent to the communities of Hamilton Branch/Lake Almanor Peninsula/Bailey Creek/Foxwood, the project will treat the moderate to dense re-growth of various brush species. In addition, a small amount of downed woody debris will be treated, small pockets of conifer that were not treated during the establishment of the DFPZ will be pre-commercially thinned (DBH less than 10 inches), the conifers will be pruned, and dead or dying trees impacted by insects/disease will be treated. CAL FIRE LMU Antelope Inmate Crews will complete the treatments by hand. The material will be piled and burned.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 1 & 4 15301(h) – Existing Facilities
15304(i) – Minor alterations of Land
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

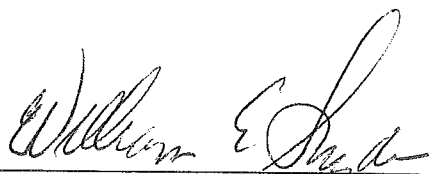
The existing fuel break/DFPZ was created under Timber Harvest Plan (THP) 2-99-176-PLU(2). The establishment of a fuel break/DFPZ is specifically identified within the THP and the entire fuel break/DFPZ was completed on 12/28/2000 (slash piles were treated/burned). The landowner is managing the project area as a permanent shaded fuel break/DFPZ. This project fits under the following classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA:

1. 15301(h) Existing Facilities (Class 1) – Maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, and water supply reservoirs (excluding the use of pesticides, as defined in Section 12753 Division 7, Chapter 2, Food and Agricultural Code);
2. 15304(i) Minor Alteration to Land (Class 4) – Allows minor alteration of vegetation including fuel management activities to reduce volume of flammable vegetation, provided the activities do not result in the taking of endangered rare, or threatened plant/animal species, or cause significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE's LMU Quincy office.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING




William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date 9/1/10
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection